

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the first paragraph of the Specification as follows:

--The invention relates to a shut-off instrument, as described in the preamble of claim 1 and a shut-off element as described in the preamble of claim 52.--

On page 1, between the first and second paragraphs, please insert the following paragraphs:

--From the document DE 1 093 634 a shut-off valve is known with a shutting-off element comprising a carrier and a casing made of elastic material. The shutting-off element encased with elastic material is in the form of a hollow cylinder that is closed on one side in the form of a spherical indentation, which cylinder is provided on its outer surface with the casing made of elastic material, and is adjustable from a position of blocking the flow channel of a valve housing into a position of opening the flow channel. This performed by means of a threaded stem mounted rotatably and sealingly in a neck extension of the valve housing, the thread of which engages with an internal thread in the shutting-off element. The elastic casing forms, together with

diametrically opposite guide tracks and guide grooves receiving  
the latter in the housing in a plane perpendicular to the flow  
direction, a linear guide for the positioning of the shutting-off  
element so that the latter cannot rotate and is supported against  
the pressure of the medium. The stem bearing in the neck  
extension makes a pendulum movement of the adjusting stem  
possible by means of an elastic bearing and sealing element to  
obtain a sealed bearing on sealing surfaces surrounding the flow  
channel.

--From a further document DE 527 748 a sealing device is  
known for a sealing body of a stopcock or valve or slide valve,  
in which the sealing body comprises a hollow cylindrical main  
body closed at one end and, which is provided on the cylindrical  
outer surface with a casing made of elastic material for sealing  
arrangement in a housing shaping of a valve housing forming the  
flow channel. The adjustment of the sealing body is performed by  
an adjusting stem in a vertical direction determined by the flow  
direction in the flow channel, whereby the sealing body is  
provided with diametrically opposite guide wings which engage in  
linear guide grooves of a neck extension, and thus there is no  
risk of twisting and guiding. In order to avoid deformations to  
the hollow cylindrical sealing body caused by the pressure of the  
medium, bores traversing the casing and walls of the sealing

element are provided which equalise the pressure.

Please amend the second, third and fourth paragraphs on page 1 as follows:

--From DE 19 16 347 A1 a A method for producing a shut-off instrument and a shut-off instrument element are known from DE 19 16 347 A1, which comprises a one-piece instrument one piece element housing with a housing part forming a flow channel and a housing extension which forms a slide valve chamber for a wedge-type valve and a stem bushing with sealing arrangement and is joined in one piece to the housing part, for completely mounting a shut-off element designed with the slide valve stem to be movable as a wedge-type valve, which is guided in the instrument element housing in such a way that it cannot be rotated twisted. The design relates to a so-called hard sealing hard sealing slide valve instrument and sealing elements forming opposite-sealing surfaces surrounding opposite the flow channel in the instrument housing are arranged, to which compatible diametrically opposed sealing faces on the wedge-type valve are allocated. In order to manufacture a one piece housing for a shut-off instrument of this kind an expensive mould structure and moulding procedure are is necessary, in order to position the premanufactured wedge-type

valve into a mould core and position it with the latter into in a casting mould.

--Furthermore, a shut-off instrument with a housing that is essentially in one piece is also known from DE 33 02 979 A1, which is provided with a lateral assembly opening for inserting the shut-off element instrument and a the bearing arrangement, and which can be sealed with a housing lid. In order to achieve the required level of tightness, in particular at higher nominal pressures, it is necessary to machine shape the housing and the housing lid on the sealing surfaces at great expense and to design the securing of the housing lid in a particular way.

--The objective of the invention is to create a shut-off instrument independently regardless of the design as a one-piece or multipart housing, by means of the entire range of occurring pressure range can be controlled, and due to the simple assembly installation of the elements of the instrument made from materials adapted to the properties of the medium to be controlled, the shut-off instrument is to can be used universally. -